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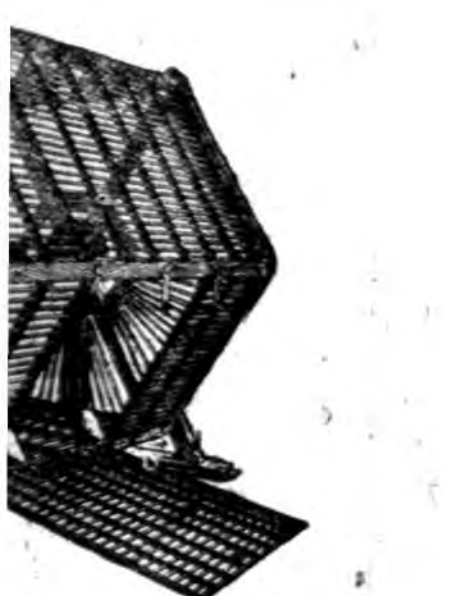
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The Bloomfield Record.

S. MORRIS HULIN, Proprietor. Established 1873.

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PRICE FIVE CENTS

Good Government Problems. :-

IS LUXURY JUSTIFIED?

BY PROFESSOR RICHARD T. ELY
(From his new volume, shortly to be published, "The Social Law of Service.")

When we come to expenditures for ostentation, for mere show and display, we must draw a sharp line: they are absolutely interdicted by the law of mutual love. We cannot find any justification in ourselves for such expenditures. Any attempted justification, when analyzed, is found to involve ignorance of the real nature of our acts, or juggling with ourselves. Such expenditures are what we may call, properly, luxuries, and they are condemned, not only by wise political philosophers of all ages, but by the fathers of the church with singular unanimity. How can I claim that I love my brother as myself when I see him need the very necessities of life and expend money for that which contributes in no measure to my real well-being? The whole tone of the Bible, from beginning to end, condemns in the strongest terms anything of the kind. Not only this, but anything of the kind is condemned explicitly in the severest language over and over again, and it is an entire contradiction to the example which Christ set us in his own life.

It may be worth while to stop for a moment to consider one very lame justification which people frequently use as a salve to conscience in their attempted evasion of social responsibility. It is said that luxury gives employment. Louis XIV., one of the most extravagant kings of France, said: "When a king makes great outlays he gives alms." A newspaper writer, speaking of certain extravagant social events which occurred a few years since, used these words: "Murmurs against luxury may be heard among people in straitened circumstances when the lavish expenditures and sumptuous pleasures of great society entertainments are discussed. But such persons are prone to forget that these expenditures that seem so prodigal go in large part to benefit the working people." We cannot consider now all the economic fallacies involved in arguments of this kind. They have been exposed over and over again by able men. It may, however, simply be pointed out that the same expenditure made in behalf of others would give equal employment to labor. Let us take the case of a man who contributes a million dollars for a public building and contrast it with the case of a man who spends a million dollars on his own private house. Labor has equal employment in both cases, but the benefit of the building accrues to the public in the one case, and in the other to the selfish enjoyment of an individual.

Another comparison: Contrast the expenditure of \$10,000 for an evening's entertainment with an expenditure of \$10,000 for books for a public library. Labor is alike employed in both cases, but in the second case the enjoyment is more widely diffused and is of a far more enduring character. This attempted justification is precisely on a line with that which people advance for the maintenance of gambling dens and the support of the traffic in intoxicating beverages. As the author writes, there lies before him a long description of a vast brewery; emphasis is laid upon the large employment which it gives to labor both directly and indirectly. Mention is made of the hop raisers in various parts of the country, and to the growers of barley. The article closes with the statement that every keg of beer sold by this New York brewery 'helps to buy pianos for our farmers' wives and daughters.' The late Professor Cairnes, an able and conservative political economist, uses these words concerning the abundant expenditures of the idle rich: "Political economy furnishes no such palliation of unmitigated selfishness."

The wealth accumulated by their ancestors, or others, on their behalf, when it is employed as capital, no doubt helps to sustain industry. But what they consume in luxury and idleness is not capital, and helps to sustain nothing but their own unprofitable lives. By all means they must have their rents and interest, as it is written in the Bible; but let them take their proper place as drones in the hive, gorging at a feast to which they have contributed nothing. The whole of this will not apply to the industrial rich, but what has been said condemns like-wise their luxury which is contrary to the doctrine of stewardship, and violates the law of mutual love.

BIMETALLISM.

RICHARD P. BLAND'S ARGUMENT FOR FREE COINAGE.

The Bank of France, which is practically a government institution, and stands related to the Treasury of France in this respect as our Treasury does to our currency system, puts out gold or silver at the option of the bank and at the convenience of the bank, and not at the option or demand of the note holder and yet all the money of France is maintained at a parity. But we are confronted with the argument that this country of ours of forty-four States, with its Territories, of over 70,000,000 of people, with a more than \$70,000,000,000 of wealth, with a productive power as great as France, Germany and England combined, or nearly so, is not able to maintain the unlimited use of gold and silver; that we should wait for the assistance and agreement, or longer, with other nations, especially England. To admit that to be true is to abandon all hope of the restoration of silver, and I know it better than those who pretend to advocate such a policy. The American people are strong enough to establish a policy of their own. Unquestionably, whatever policy the United States may adopt with regard to silver will be the policy of this continent, and our money will circulate and be used, not solely as the money of the United States, but of all America. While we have no treaties upon the subject, and no international agreement or understanding written on paper, yet we have been forced by the banking corporations of the old world and of this to adopt the same monetary policy as that of Western Europe—a single gold standard. It may not be called a league or solemn compact to which the people have agreed, but it is a forceful condition that confronts us at all times in the discussion and in all attempts to legislate upon the money question. No bill affecting our finances introduced in Congress can safely be considered under present conditions until we shall have consulted Western Europe, and especially England.

But in all this argument touching the free coinage of silver the most potent one is that gold is wholly inadequate as a monetary supply; that in all the history of the world both gold and silver were required, and even when both were in full use as money there was not a sufficiency, but beyond the use of the two metals most all nations had to supplement the metals with paper issues based upon them.

As bimetalists, we are demanding the full use of both metals, the dollar, silver or gold, shall constitute the basis for redemption fund to measure the amount and value of our currency, and ultimately to measure the amount and value of all property and the extent and activity of our people in productive enterprises, for money, in one sense, is but a tool which the laborer works, or to be used in his employment. If the tools of work are limited and contracted in supply, so must the work of the laborer be limited and contracted. And again the tool of trade. If the tool of trade is to be limited and contracted, so must trade itself be curtailed and hampered. Again, it is a medium of exchange. If that medium is to be destroyed or contracted, so must trade be destroyed and curtailed. Again, it is a means of liquidating debts. If the thing with which debt is to be paid is destroyed or contracted, so the power to pay debts will be destroyed or contracted, resulting in bankruptcy and ruin to debtors. Nature has set its seal of limitation upon the product of gold and silver, hence the impossibility, at least the improbability, of any over-supply of the thing to constitute our money volume. Never in the history of the world has there been an over-supply of these two metals.

Never in the history of the world has there been a sufficient supply of these two metals to sustain and support prices. Small ages, and at the present time, some nations have not been able to procure a sufficiency of either of these two metals. They have been compelled to resort to the devices of paper issues and other forms of money; and all of them today are compelled to resort to substitutes to a greater or less degree

for the precious metals: it is not within the power of the Legislature to inflate gold and silver money unduly, unless by debasing the coins. Nor is it within the power of the rightful power of Congress, by legislation to contract the volume of money as supplied by these two metals. This can be done only by the wrongful usurpation of power to demote one or the other of them.

The coming battle—the battle of the standard—in all probability will be one of the most momentous in our history. That ultimately the people will restore silver to its ancient place in our monetary system there can be no doubt, unless we doubt the intelligence and patriotism of our people, unless we doubt the perpetuity of our institutions.

A TRUE FISH STORY

Don't Read It If You Are Not Prepared to Believe It.

We give every one fair warning that this is a fish story. More than that, it is a story of a fish with legs. Now, all who are not prepared to believe may stop right here, for this is a true story, and to doubt it would be to question the veracity of one of Ellsworth's best citizens, a man held in the esteem of his fellows, and whose word is good. This is the story as he told it to the reporter:

Some years ago I was employed in lumbering on the west branch of the Penobscot. His camp was at North Twin lake. In camp with him was a man who declared he had caught trout with legs and he showed me at that time he had his time to prove his story. One Sunday he pointed to the Ellsworth man a fishing trip. It was a ten mile tramp across country to the pond he wished to visit, but it was considered but a short jaunt to these woods men experienced in the use of snowshoes.

The trip was made, and in the course of a few ponds fishing a dozen or more trout were caught. As the Ellsworth man stooped to pick up his fish he noticed something peculiar about one of them that was breathing his last. In endeavoring to get the trout out of the water he noticed the closing of the gills something having the appearance of legs was stretched out from the fish's body. He called to his companion to see what manner of fish he had caught, but that night, and he said calmly remarked: "Oh, that's one of those trout with legs I was telling you about. They're all that way in this pond."

Each fish was supplied with six legs—three on each side—which folded so closely to the body as to be hardly noticeable except on close inspection. But they were legs sure enough. The pond where these remarkable fish were caught is situated on Saddleback mountain. It is a small pond, covering only about 20 acres, and has neither inlet nor outlet. It is said that there is a similar pond on Mount Katahdin where the six legged trout are caught. The fish caught by the Ellsworth man were exhibited at Bangor. He will not say that the trout may still be caught. Possibly they have taken to the land and walked off.—Ellsworth (Me.) American.

The Only Way.

Mr. William Spark in his "Musical Memoirs" tells a story of the famous Wesley which was related to him by Mr. Bishop, the London organ builder. Wesley was a great extemporaneous fugue player, and on the occasion which Mr. Bishop referred to he was asked to show off a new organ by playing a voluntary at the afternoon service previous to the reading of the first lesson. Before going to the organ he asked the vicar, who was an amateur organist, how long the voluntary should last. "Oh," replied the vicar, "please yourself, Mr. Wesley. Say five or ten minutes, but we should like the same as much of the different stops as you can oblige us with."

When the time came, after a few preliminary choruses, Wesley began to play. He worked out in a masterly way in about a quarter of an hour, and the vicar was about to commence reading the lesson when the impatient organist started a second subject, and this he developed in the same abrupt, elaborate manner as the first.

The congregation at the end of half an hour began to show signs of weariness. The vicar beckoned to Mr. Bishop and begged him to stop the too prolix organist.

"Oh," replied the organ builder, "I can soon stop him if you give me authority and will take the consequences." He approached the organ blower, and holding up half a crown he said hurriedly: "Come and take this. I am just going."

The blower pumped the bellows full and made for the half crown. Bishop detained him until the wind went out with a suck and a grunt, and poor Wesley was left high and dry in the middle of his double fugue.

Qualifications Needed For Consulship.

Anybody at all familiar with the duties of an American consul, anybody who knows what is expected of him by the department of state and what he is called upon to do by the public, will agree that he should neither be the product nor the victim of capricious political partisanship. He should be appointed upon his merits after careful examination, and retained upon the same basis. There should be a career for the consul. There should be reward for merit, and he should suffer for incompetency.

A Funny Strike.

The late Sir Frederick Gore Ouseley was fond of telling his experiences as a party to the strike in Cambridge University. One of them was a strike after an organ performance, when he received this laconic epistle:

PEOPLE OF THE DAY.

John P. Altgeld, who has been re-nominated by the Democrats of Illinois for governor, is a man whose official acts have been more widely commented on, perhaps, than those of the chief executive of any other state in the Union. By pardoning the Chicago anarchists and by disputing the right of the president



JOHN P. ALTGELD.

Altgeld was born in Bavaria in 1847, but his parents settled near Mansfield, O., when he was very young. He enlisted in the Union army at the age of 16, and after the war taught school for a while until he became a lawyer in a little Missouri town. He was not successful until he removed to Chicago in 1876. He rose rapidly in his profession and became well known in the political circles. In 1880 he was elected judge of the superior court and resigned when first nominated for governor. He has accumulated a fortune by shrewd and successful speculations in real estate.

A Millionaire Molested. N. K. Fairbank, the Chicago millionaire who was recently molested to the tune of \$10,000 in the New York courts by David Belasco, the playwright, is an eminently dignified and respectable looking old gentleman, with white whiskers and an air of cold reserve. He is known in Chicago as a most successful business man, a cool and daring operator in stocks, a pillar of the church, and a liberal and public spirited citizen.



N. K. FAIRBANK.

actor in stocks, a pillar of the church, and a liberal and public spirited citizen. Mr. Fairbank was born in the little village of Sodus, N. Y., about 65 years ago and began life as a bricklayer's apprentice. While still a young man he was sent to Chicago as the representative of an eastern flour mill, but he eventually founded a business of his own, which enabled him to accumulate a large fortune. He moved in Chicago's most exclusive social circles, and his friends were greatly surprised when it was made known through the suit that he had been acting as a financial backer for Mrs. Leslie Carter, the Chicago society woman who took to the stage after losing a sensational divorce suit.

Founded the Christian Endeavor.

The great gathering of Christian Endeavorers at Washington brings into special prominence the Rev. Francis E. Clark, who is the founder and president of that organization. Dr. Clark was pastor of the Williston church at Portland, Me., when he started the movement.



REV. FRANCIS E. CLARK.

It was 15 years ago that the first Christian Endeavor meeting was held in Dr. Clark's study, with about 25 young men and women present. The membership today is something over 3,000,000. Dr. Clark has given much of his time and a great deal of labor toward developing the organization. He has made several trips abroad and has visited about every Christian country on earth.

A Funny Strike.

The late Sir Frederick Gore Ouseley was fond of telling his experiences as a party to the strike in Cambridge University. One of them was a strike after an organ performance, when he received this laconic epistle:

Sir—We intend for you on Tuesday. It is to be paid. And is gone to pay for you.

T. B. BRAWLEY.

It is far off, and rather like a dream than an assurance, the cry, "memberships warrants."—Shakespeare.

OUR NEW YORK LETTER.

New Light on Pawnbrokers & Bicycles Repair Scheme—The Bandanna as an Article of Dress.

(Special Correspondence.)

Many persons have wondered what eventually becomes of the tens of thousands of miscellaneous articles annually lodged in the hundreds of pawnshops of this city and unredemmed. A pawnbroker who has made a fortune out of the business, but who, nevertheless, finds something to complain of, thus throws light on a dark subject. He says: "The pawnbroker's business is not what it once was, and at the present time it is very slow. Goods pledged are not redeemed as often as in years past and these goods must be sold at auction at the expiration of a year if they are not redeemed. We always allow on jewelry what we think the goods would bring if put up at auction, but frequently it happens we are obliged to buy them in. I have known of jewelry being sold at one of these auction sales which did not realize even the amount loaned, and, of course, the interest was entirely lost. As for clothes, I have had the unfortunate experience of selling what represented advances of \$500 and realizing from the auction sale \$300. Two hundred dollars lost in this way, not to mention the interest earned for one year, is very heavy. These auction sales take place on the Bowery and the clothes are bought by dealers in Baxter street. The jewelry goes into first class hands. As for clothes, I have had the unfortunate experience of selling what represented advances of \$500 and realizing from the auction sale \$300. Two hundred dollars lost in this way, not to mention the interest earned for one year, is very heavy. These auction sales take place on the Bowery and the clothes are bought by dealers in Baxter street. The jewelry goes into first class hands. As for clothes, I have had the unfortunate experience of selling what represented advances of \$500 and realizing from the auction sale \$300. 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